

MASON CITY COAL GASIFICATION PLANT

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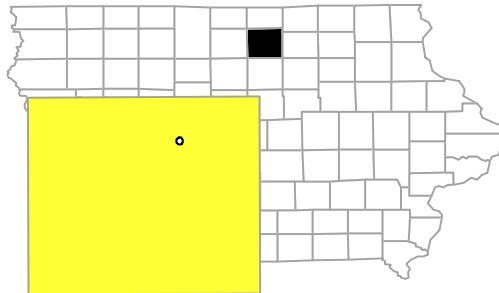
EPA ID# IAD980969190

EPA Region 7

City: Mason City

County: Cerro Gordo County

**Other Names: Coal Gasification
Plant**



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Mason City Coal Gasification Plant site is located on approximately 2 1/3 acres in a commercial and residential area of central Mason City, a north-central Iowa community of 29,000. Mason City Coal Gasification Plant operated from 1900 to 1951 and was demolished in 1952. An electrical substation and a small storage building are all that remain on the site. During a 1984 sewer installation, oily sludges were discovered in subsurface soil at the site. Investigations by the current site owner, Alliant Energy Corporation (Interstate Power Company), revealed three underground storage tanks containing oily sludge. The tanks and excavated soil were exhumed and stored on the southeast corner of the site and covered with a membrane cap. Contaminated soil is also present in the north-central portion of the site. The site is situated on fill material consisting of sand, gravel, and construction rubble and debris, and is in direct contact with bedrock. Although the level of the water table fluctuates seasonally, the water table in the fill material is typically present at depths ranging from 8 to 10 feet below the surface. A portion of the groundwater flows through the fill and empties into Willow Creek, which is used for public recreational fishing. Eight Mason City municipal drinking water wells are located within 2 miles of the site. Approximately 98 percent of Mason City is supplied by the municipal drinking water supply.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 01/18/94

Final Date: 12/12/94

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

Description: The soil, on-site waste pile, bedrock, and groundwater are contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Soil samples collected indicate that the soil is contaminated to a depth of 13 1/2 feet. A series of investigations between 1986 and 1993 by Interstate Power Company identified high concentrations of PAHs in samples of groundwater taken from the uppermost aquifer and in samples of Willow Creek sediment downstream from the site. Ingesting or coming into direct contact with contaminated soil or groundwater could pose a public health threat.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: In late 1988, the potentially responsible parties excavated three underground storage tanks and surrounding contaminated soil, moved them to the southeast corner of the site, and covered them with a membrane cap. Excavation and thermal treatment of contaminated soil and the waste pile was completed in November 1996.

Groundwater: In late 1991, the potentially responsible parties began investigating the nature and extent of site contamination. This study was completed in 1994. Periodic sampling of groundwater will continue for a minimum of two years following removal of the contaminated soils and the waste pile. A final cleanup remedy will be selected to address groundwater contamination following this post-removal sampling.

Description:

Site Facts: Interstate Power Company signed an Administrative Order on Consent with the EPA in October 1991. Under this order, Interstate Power Company agreed to determine the extent of contamination at the site and assist the EPA in evaluating cleanup options. In 1995 Interstate Power Company, Kansas City Power & Light Company, Bob McKiness Grading and Excavating, Inc., and the City of Mason City signed an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA for removal of source materials and post-removal groundwater monitoring.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



The removal of contaminated soil and several storage tanks has made the Mason City Coal Gasification Plant safe while groundwater monitoring continues.

SITE REPOSITORY



Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd
Street S.E., Mason City, IA 50401

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Diana Engeman
engeman.diana@epa.gov
(913) 551-7746

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COORDINATOR:

PHONE NUMBER:

Diane Huffman
(913) 551-7544

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

STATE CONTACT:

PHONE NUMBER:

Johanshir Golchin
(515) 281-8925

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

PACIFIC ISLAND(S):

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

EPA ORGANIZATION:

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MODIFICATIONS